

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

AEC-07 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INT-05 L-02 NSC-05 PM-03

SAM-01 OES-05 SS-15 STR-04 FEA-01 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 /149 W

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P R 132023Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 4993

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 01003

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE ON LONG TERM ENERGY
ASSESSMENT

1. SUMMARY. OECD SECRETARIAT HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 13 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON OECD LONG TERM ENERGY ASSESSMENT ("ENERGY PROSPECTS TO 1985"), RELEASED ON SECRETARY-GENERAL'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLICATION AS OF 0001 TUESDAY MORNING, JAN. 14. (PRESS HAS HAD STUDY ON EMBARGOED BASIS SINCE DEC. 20.) CONFERENCE WENT QUITE SMOOTHLY WITH PRESS FOR MOST PART AVOIDING INQUIRIES OF MORE SENSATIONAL POLITICAL NATURE AND FOCUSING ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS RE STUDY ITSELF. CONFERENCE WAS CHAIRED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL ELDIN IN ABSENCE OF SECRETARY GENERAL VAN LENNEP IN WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY

2. IN ADDITION TO DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, THOSE PARTICIPATING FROM SECRETARIAT WERE LTEA STUDY COORDINATOR SCHNEIDER, IEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LANTZKE AND HEAD OF CENTRAL UNIT BOXER. MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION FOLLOW.

3. DEPUTY SECGEN OPENED MEETING BY EMPHASIZING THAT STUDY HAD BEEN LAUNCHED IN 1972, LONG BEFORE PRESENT ENERGY CRISIS ERUPTED. (ELDIN NOTED THAT SEPARATE STUDY ON R&D ASPECTS OF ENERGY SITUATION, SPT(74)21, WOULD BE RELEASED SHORTLY AS COMPANION PIECE.) PURPOSE OF LTEA STUDY WAS TO PROVIDE AN INDEPENDENT AND OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS BY EXPERTS OF LONG-TERM ENERGY SITUATION, AND RELEASE AT THIS TIME WAS IN NO WAY A POLITICAL MOVE BY CONSUMERS VIS-A-VIS PRODUCERS. THIS POINT WAS REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES RE RELATIONSHIP OF STUDY TO RECENT U.S. POLICY STATEMENTS.

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4. SCHNEIDER SAID REPORT WAS FIRST OF ITS KIND WITHIN OECD, REFLECTING AN INTER-DISCIPLINARY, INTER-COMMITTEE APPROACH. SCHNEIDER SAID LTEA'S MAIN VALUE WAS AS STARTING POINT FOR FURTHER WORK ON ENERGY WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON THIS POINT, AND ON RELATIONSHIP OF IEA TO LTEA, LANTZKE SAID THERE WAS

GENERAL AGREEMENT AMONG ALL OECD COUNTRIES THAT STUDY
WOULD HAVE TO BE UPDATED AND REVISED AT PERIODIC
INTERVALS. DATE FOR FIRST UPDATING NOT YET FIXED,
HOWEVER, AND COUNCIL HAS YET TO DECIDE ON WHAT FURTHER
OECD WORK ON ENERGY MIGHT GROW OUT OF LTEA. MAIN LINK
TO IEA WAS THAT LTEA SHOWS THAT,
OBJECTIVES OF IEA CAN BE REACHED IF CORRECT POLICIES
ADOPTED. IN ANY EVENT, IEA WORK PROGRAM FALLS IN SAME
AREA AS LTEA AND THERE WOULD OF COURSE BE A
"COMPLEMENTARITY" BETWEEN THE TWO.

6. SCHNEIDER AND LANTZKE BOTH EMPHASIZED THAT MAJOR
DECISIONS BY GOVERNMENTS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE
FINANCING OF INVESTMENT IN NEW ENERGY SOURCES, AND THAT
BECAUSE OF THE 5-8 YEAR LEAD TIME ON SUCH LONG-TERM
PROJECTS, THESE DECISIONS NEED TO BE MADE VERY SOON.
IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER LTEA REPORT WAS
OVERLY OPTIMISTIC IN ITS PROJECTIONS, LANTZKE SAID THAT
IN HIS VIEW REPORT WAS "REALISTIC" IN PROJEC-
TIONS AND IN POTENTIAL FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION AND

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7. SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO QUESTION BY CLYDE FARNSWORTH OF NY TIMES AS TO HOW TO PROTECT INVESTORS IN NEW HIGH-COST ENERGY SOURCES AGAINST POSSIBLE DROP IN ENERGY PRICES, BUT DEPSEC GEN ELDIN DID STRESS POINT THAT "IF ENERGY PRICE IS KEPT AT HIGH ENOUGH LEVEL ALTERNATIVE SOURCES WILL BECOME PROFITABLE" AND PRESENT ENERGY INDUSTRIES COULD BE EXPECTED TO EXPAND INTO THESE NEW FIELDS.

8. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION CONCERNING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LTEA AND RECENTLY RELEASED EC STUDY ON ENERGY POLICY, SECRETARIAT OBSERVED THAT LTEA PROJECTIONS DO NOT ASSUME ANY NEW GOVERNMENT POLICY DECISION, AS IS THE CASE WITH THE EC STUDY, AND THE LTEA IS MUCH MORE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE RAPID EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR POWER CAPABILITIES, BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS OF CAPITAL GENERATION AND REGULATORY PROBLEMS.

9. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION CONCERNING THE STATUS OF NORWEGIAN AFFILIATION WITH THE IEA, LANTZKE SAID NORWAY GENERALLY IS IN LINE WITH THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES OF THE IEA BUT PROBLEM OF HOW TO AFFILIATE REMAINS. LANTZKE SAID ISSUE NEEDS BE RESOLVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND THAT HE HOPED AGENCY WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AN ANSWER TO NORWAY VERY SOON.
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